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Message Text

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16
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 FDRE-00 OMB-01 SSO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCS-03 SCA-01

(ISO) W
---------- 093481
P R 230959Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9292
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
CINCPAC
CINCPACREPPHIL

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TPHY, RP
SUBJECT: MARCOS REAFFIRMS POLICY ON SELF-RELIANCE ON
EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

REF: A) MANILA 12747 AND B) MANILA 12700

1. PUBLICIZING OF AID MEMO HAS STRENGTHENED GOP WILL TO ADHERE TO POLICY OF SELF-RELIANCE WITH REGARD TO EARTHQUAKE RELIEF. AT SAME TIME, GOP HAS REFRAINED FROM DIRECT ATTACKS ON U.S. AND PRESS HANDLING OF ISSUE HAS BEEN GENERALLY MODERATE AND FACTUAL. PRESIDENT MARCOS IS CLEARLY DETERMINED TO EMULATE CHINESE PATTERN OF "DIGNIFIED" RESPONSE WHICH HE FIRST PRAISED ON AUGUST 19, BEFORE AID MEMO SURFACED.

2. AT AUGUST 22 PRESS CONFERENCE, REPORTER ASKED MARCOS ABOUT AID MEMO. PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED AWARENESS OF MEMO BUT POINTEDLY REFRAINED FROM CRITICIZING U.S. INSTEAD, HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR ALL AID OFFERS,
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INCLUDING AMERICAN, AND THEN SAID PHILIPPINES

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DID NOT NEED OUTSIDE HELP: "WE THINK WE CAN
HANDLE THE SITUATION UNDER OUR POLICY OF SELF-RELIANCE."
THIS POLICY LATER REINFORCED BY SEPARATE STATEMENT
FROM FORSEC ROMULO TO PRESS WHICH EMPHASIZED
EFFECTIVENESS AND SPONTANEITY OF LOCAL ASSISTANCE
EFFORTS. ROMULO AGAIN THANKED FOREIGN DONORS BUT
CONCLUDED, "WE ARE SHOWING THE WORLD THAT THE POLICY
OF SELF-RELIANCE IS NOW PROJECTED IN ITS BEST LIGHT."

3. PRESS HAS CARRIED STATE DEPARTMENT REPUDIATION OF
POLITICAL ANALYSIS IN AID MEMO, WHICH HAS HELPED
MINIMIZE DAMAGE. CRITICAL COMMENTARY ON MEMO THUS
FAR RESTRICTED TO "DAILY EXPRESS" AND "TIMES JOURNAL"
EDITORIALS AND COLUMNIST VALENCIA IN "DAILY EXPRESS".
LATTER TWO OF THESE VOICES ARE FREQUENTLY ANTI-AMERICAN.
OVERALL, MEDIA REACTION HAS BEEN FAR LESS STRIDENT THAN
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN, NO DOUBT BECAUSE EDITORS ARE TAKING
CUE FROM PRESIDENTIAL EMPHASIS ON DIGNITY. (MEDIA
REACTION REPORTED IN DETAIL REF B.

4. IN SUM, WHILE AID MEMO DID NOT REPEAT NOT PRECIPITATE
GOP REFUSAL OF U.S. AND OTHER FOREIGN AID, IT PRESUMABLY HAS
INCREASED PRESIDENT'S DETERMINATION TO HEW TO POLICY
OF SELF-RELIANCE. NATIONAL PRIDE IS NOW ON THE LINE AND
WE DOUBT THAT MARCOS WILL DEVIATE REGARDLESS OF POSSIBLY
ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR SOME QUAKE VICTIMS.

5. IN VIEW OF THIS, WE WOULD SUGGEST FOLLOWING USG
POSTURE: (A) CONTINUE POLICY OF NOT PRESSING OFFICIAL
AID OFFERS AND SHOULD STAND DOWN FROM REMAINING STANDBY/
READINESS POSTURE; AND (B) ENCOURAGE U.S. RED CROSS
ASSISTANCE, WHICH WE ASSUME WILL REQUIRE USG CASH-GRANT
TO U.S. RED CROSS. (AS NOTED SEPTEL, U.S. RED CROSS,
UNLIKE MANY COUNTERPARTS IN WORLD, HAS THUS FAR MADE NO
EARTHQUAKE RELIEF DONATION.) MEANWHILE, WE ARE CONSIDERING
DIRECT DISTRIBUTION AMONG PHILIPPINE RED CROSS AND U.S.
VOLUNTEER AGENCIES OF $25,000 UNDER AMBASSADOR'S DISASTER
RELIEF AUTHORITY.
SULLIVAN

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